

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently amended) A knife sharpening apparatus having two sharpening rods pivot mounted at one end and guided in curved guides at the other end and loaded toward each other by springs, said sharpening rods crossing in a knife insertion opening so that upon pressure on the crossing sharpening rods by the knife inserted into the knife insertion opening, the sharpening rods are spread apart against the force of the springs, wherein the sharpening rods are disposed and mounted in a housing whose front wall and back wall are provided, for forming the knife insertion opening, with mutually parallel slots which are open at one end and closed at the other end, and wherein a stand is linked to the side of the housing facing away from the knife insertion opening, said stand being of plate-shaped form and being adapted to be slid onto said front wall.

2. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the housing has a length and a width of 5 to 10 cm and a thickness of 1 to 3 cm.

3. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the housing is divided between the front wall and the back wall.

4. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 3, wherein a dividing joint extends plane-parallel to the front wall and the back wall.

5. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the sharpening rods are mounted both on the front wall and on the back wall.

6. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 5, wherein for mounting the sharpening rods, a pivot pin is provided on the sharpening rods in each case on the front and back or on the front wall and the back wall to rotatably engage a recess in the front wall and the back wall or in the sharpening rods.

7. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the curved guides for guiding the sharpening rods are formed by recesses in the front wall and the back wall which are engaged by guiding pins provided on the sharpening rods on the front and back.

8. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the springs are formed by wires which at one end are fastened to the back wall and at the other end ~~attaek~~attach the sharpening rods on the side facing away from the knife insertion opening.

9. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 8, wherein for fastening each spring, the back wall is provided therein with a groove in which one end of the spring is disposed and which is adapted to be sealed by a projection on the front wall.

10. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the area of the sharpening rods is separated from the rest of the internal space of the housing by a dividing wall which is provided on the front wall and/or the back wall.

11. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening

apparatus according to claim 1, wherein for connecting the front wall with the back wall, the front wall and/or the back wall have provided thereon sleeve-shaped attachments into which pins on the back wall and/or the front wall are adapted to be inserted.

12. - 13. (Cancelled)

14. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim ~~13~~1, wherein the stand, for being linked to the housing, has two pins which engage longitudinal grooves on one and the other narrow side of the housing.

15. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the longitudinal grooves are provided in the side wall of the front housing member.

16. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein for fixing the housing in the folded out position at an angle between the housing and the stand of less than 90°, a stop is provided on the housing and/or the stand.

17. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the housing comprises front and back housing members and the stand, for forming the stop, has side walls on which ~~the~~ side walls of the back housing member are supported in the folded out position of the stand.

18. (Currently amended) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 17, wherein ~~the~~ side walls of the front housing member extend on the inner side of the side walls of the stand.

19. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening

apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the stand is provided on its side facing away from the pin with an end wall which, in the folded in position of the stand slid onto the housing, engages over the end wall of the housing facing away from the knife insertion opening.

20. (Previously presented) The knife sharpening apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the front wall has on the side facing the slot a projection which engages over the adjacent edge of the stand in the folded in position slid onto the housing.

21. (New) A knife sharpening apparatus having two sharpening rods pivot mounted at one end and guided in curved guides at the other end and loaded toward each other by springs, said sharpening rods crossing in a knife insertion opening so that upon pressure on the crossing sharpening rods by the knife inserted into the knife insertion opening, the sharpening rods are spread apart against the force of the springs, wherein the sharpening rods are disposed and mounted in a housing whose front wall and back wall are provided, for forming the knife insertion opening, with mutually parallel slots which are open at one end and closed at the other end, and wherein a stand is linked to the side of the housing facing away from the knife insertion opening, a stop being provided on the stand for fixing the housing in a folded out position at an angle between the housing and the stand of less than 90°, said stand, for forming said stop, having side walls on which the side walls of the housing are supported in the folded out position of the stand.

22. (New) A knife sharpening apparatus having two sharpening rods pivot mounted at one end and guided in curved guides at the other end and loaded toward each other by springs, said sharpening rods crossing in a knife insertion opening so that upon pressure on the crossing sharpening rods

by the knife inserted into the knife insertion opening, the sharpening rods are spread apart against the force of the springs, wherein the sharpening rods are disposed and mounted in a housing whose front wall and back wall are provided, for forming the knife insertion opening, with mutually parallel slots which are open at one end and closed at the other end, and wherein a stand is linked to the side of the housing facing away from the knife insertion opening so as to be foldable between folded in and folded out positions, the front wall on the side facing the slot having a projection which engages over an adjacent edge of the stand when the stand is slid onto the housing in the folded in position.